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Men's Reproductive Health Services in the Northern Cape, South Africa

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A dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management, University of the Witwatersrand, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of (Master of Management by Research and Dissertation).

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	**Page**
Table of Contents	**ii**
Abstract	**iv**
Declaration	**vi**
Dedication	**vii**
Acknowledgements	**viii**
List of Acronyms	**ix**
Chapter 1	**1**
1.1 Introduction and Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	3
1.3 The aims for investigating men's reproductive health	4
1.4 Research questions	4
1.5 Rationale for investigating men's reproductive health	5
1.6 Assumptions	5
1.6 Summary of subsequent chapters of the research report	6
Chapter 2	**8**
Literature Review	**8**
2.1 Basic concepts that guide programmes	10
2.2 Findings from the literature and research on men's health	16
2.2.1 Global studies and macro level programmes on men's health	16
2.2.2 Men's reproductive health studies in Africa	22
2.3 Limitations of past approaches	30
2.4 The status quo on men's reproductive health	30
2.5 Future strategies for implementing men's reproductive health	32
2.6 Conclusion	39

Chapter 3 **42**
Research Methodology **42**
3.1 Introduction 42
3.2 Research design 42
3.3 Documentary analysis 43
3.4 Key Informant Interviews 44
3.5 Focus group discussions 46
3.6 Sampling design and methods 48
3.7 Data collection methods and fieldwork 50
3.8 Data analysis and coding 53
3.9 Validity and Reliability 54
3.10 Limitation of the study 55
3.11 Conclusion 55

Chapter 4 **56**
Research and Analysis **56**
4.1 Introduction 56
4.2 Data and methodology 56
4.3 Findings of content analysis of policy and planning documents 57
4.4 Findings from in-depth interviews with key informants both at national and provincial level 60
4.5 Findings of the focus group discussion 67
4.6 Comparative analysis of the three data sets 72
4.7 Conclusion 74

Chapter 5 **75**
Interpretation of findings **75**
5.1 Introduction 75
5.2 Analysis and interpretation 75

Chapter 6 **80**
Conclusion and Recommendations **80**
6.1 Introduction 80
6.2 Programming for men's reproductive health programmes 80
6.3 Challenges and Recommendations 87
6.3 Concluding comments 88

Reference **90**

Data Collection Tools **100**
Appendix A 100
Appendix B 101

ABSTRACT

Very little research has been conducted on men's reproductive health services in South Africa. The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing provided a foundation for expanding reproductive health services to include men.

Many men and programme planners lack a clear understanding of what men's reproductive health means. Services for men in South Africa are typically housed in settings where staff lack training in male sexuality and reproductive health.

This research study was conducted in the Northern Cape. Three sets of data were used. The researcher undertook a situational analysis with key informants in order to understand the situation, services and needs for men's sexual and reproductive health, identify barriers and obstacles to good quality reproductive health care and analysed existing plans and reports. Focus groups with men were conducted and key informants of the Department of Health were interviewed.

The study has assessed progress made since the implementation of the National Health Plan of South Africa and has provided key future recommendations for the realization of ICPD adopted by South Africa in 1994. The findings of this research strongly emphasizes that all policies, programmes, information and services need to reflect the social realities of men and how this affects their health. The outcome of this research will be the development of a model that will serve as a framework for programme development and service delivery that will constitute basic reproductive health care for men.

The study recommends that the Northern Cape Department of Health must design a reproductive health programme that integrates male health care including impotence, STIs, infertility and other conditions. Special advocacy

strategies and messages should be developed to target men to raise awareness about their involvement in reproductive health

This broader definition of male health will make it easier for men to walk into a health facility.

DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation is my own, unaided work. It is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Master of Management (Public and Development Management) by Research and Dissertation in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University.

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Pheya Alinah Mabote

September 2009.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my son Tumi Percival and my siblings for their love and support. Without you Dad and Mum, I would not have come this far.

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I am grateful to my supervisor Professor Ivor Sarakinsky, for his guidance, encouragement and useful comments, Department of Health and the research participants who gave me valuable information. Above all, I am grateful to God Almighty for guidance and subsistence through this journey.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
AVSC	Association for Voluntary and Surgical Contraception
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
FWCW	Fourth World Conference on Women
GFID	German Foundation for International Development
HERA	Health, Empowerment, Rights and Accountability
HIV	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
PATH	The Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health
NGOs	Non-governmental Health
RHO	Reproductive Health Outlook
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations AID
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organisation